

In re Patent Application of:
THOMSON ET AL.
Serial No. 09/658,509
Filed: **SEPTEMBER 8, 2000**

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a body portion having opposing first and second ends;

a handlebar clamping portion having a first arcuate extent and connected to the first end of said body portion;

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a handlebar clamping member having a second arcuate extent and cooperating with said handlebar clamping portion to clamp the bicycle handlebar therebetween;

said handlebar clamping member and said handlebar clamping portion each having a recess for the handlebar and a cavity in a respective medial portion of the recess to accommodate an enlarged diameter portion of the handlebar, the cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping portion extending fully over the first arcuate extent thereof, and the cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping member extending fully over the second arcuate extent thereof;

at least one fastener for securing said handlebar clamping member to said handlebar clamping portion; and

a steering tube clamping portion connected to the second end of said body portion.

2. (Amended) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said handlebar clamping member has a generally rectangular shape with said recess therein defining with the cavity a pair of spaced apart contact areas for contacting the handlebar.

3. A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said handlebar clamping member is removable from said handlebar clamping portion.

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4. (Amended) A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 and wherein said recess of said handlebar clamping portion defines with the cavity a pair of spaced apart contact areas for contacting the handlebar.

A1 Cont
5. A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said body portion has a tubular shape with a hollow interior; and wherein the cavity of said handlebar clamping portion has an opening therein in communication with the hollow interior of said body portion.

B1 Cont
6. A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said handlebar clamping member and said handlebar clamping portion both have generally rectangular shapes overlying one another.

7. A bicycle stem according to Claim 6 wherein said at least one fastener comprises respective fasteners securing corners of said handlebar clamping member and said handlebar clamping portion together.

8. A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said body portion, handlebar clamping portion and steering tube clamping portion are integrally formed as a monolithic unit.

9. A bicycle stem according to Claim 1 wherein said steering tube clamping portion has a tubular shape

In re Patent Application of:
THOMSON ET AL.
Serial No. 09/658,509
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defining a steering tube receiving passageway therethrough,
and wherein said steering tube clamping portion also has a
clamp receiving passageway therein transverse to the steering
tube receiving passageway and in communication therewith.

10. A bicycle stem according to Claim 9 further
comprising a steering tube clamp in the clamp receiving
passageway and comprising a pair of cooperating clamp members
aligned in side-by-side relation and comprising respective
portions defining a recess therein for the steering tube.

11. (Amended) A bicycle stem for connecting a
bicycle handlebar to a bicycle steering tube, the bicycle stem
comprising:

a body portion;

a handlebar clamping portion having a first arcuate
extent and connected to an end of said body portion and having
a generally rectangular shape;

a handlebar clamping member having a second arcuate
extent and having a generally rectangular shape aligned with
said handlebar clamping portion and cooperating therewith to
clamp the bicycle handlebar therebetween;

said handlebar clamping member and said handlebar
clamping portion each having a recess for the handlebar and a
cavity in a respective medial portion of the recess to
accommodate an enlarged diameter portion of the handlebar, the
cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping portion
extending fully over the first arcuate extent thereof, and the

In re Patent Application of:
THOMSON ET AL.
Serial No. 09/658,509
Filed: **SEPTEMBER 8, 2000**

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cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping member
extending fully over the second arcuate extent thereof; and
respective fasteners for securing corners of said
handlebar clamping member and said handlebar clamping portion
together.

12. (Amended) A bicycle stem according to Claim 11
wherein said recess of said handlebar clamping member defines
with the cavity a pair of spaced apart contact areas for
contacting the handlebar.

13. A bicycle stem according to Claim 11 wherein
said handlebar clamping member is removable from said
handlebar clamping portion.

14. (Amended) A bicycle stem according to Claim 11
and wherein said recess of said handlebar clamping portion
defines with the cavity a pair of spaced apart contact areas
for contacting the handlebar.

15. A bicycle stem according to Claim 11 wherein
said body portion has a tubular shape with a hollow interior;
and wherein the cavity of said handlebar clamping portion has
an opening therein in communication with the hollow interior
of said body portion.

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16. A bicycle stem according to Claim 11 further
comprising a steering tube clamping portion connected to an

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Serial No. 09/658,509
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end of said body portion opposite said handlebar clamping portion.

17. A bicycle stem according to Claim 16 wherein said body portion, handlebar clamping portion and steering tube clamping portion are integrally formed as a monolithic unit.

18. A bicycle stem according to Claim 16 wherein said steering tube clamping portion has a tubular shape defining a steering tube receiving passageway therethrough, and wherein said steering tube clamping portion also has a clamp receiving passageway therein transverse to the steering tube receiving passageway and in communication therewith.

19. A bicycle stem according to Claim 18 further comprising a steering tube clamp in the clamp receiving passageway and comprising a pair of cooperating clamp members aligned in side-by-side relation and comprising respective portions defining a recess therein for the steering tube.

20. (Amended) A bicycle stem for connecting a bicycle handlebar to a bicycle steering tube, the bicycle stem comprising:

a body portion having a tubular shape defining a hollow interior;

a handlebar clamping portion having a first arcuate extent and connected to an end of said body portion and having a recess therein for the handlebar, said handlebar clamping

In re Patent Application of:
THOMSON ET AL.
Serial No. 09/658,509
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portion further having an opening in a medial portion of the recess in communication with the hollow interior of said body portion;

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a handlebar clamping member having a second arcuate extent and cooperating with said handlebar clamping portion to clamp the bicycle handlebar therebetween, said handlebar clamping member having a recess for the handlebar and a cavity in a medial portion of the recess, the cavity in said recess of said handlebar clamping member extending fully over the second arcuate extent thereof; and

at least one fastener for securing said handlebar clamping member to said handlebar clamping portion.

21. A bicycle stem according to Claim 20 wherein said handlebar clamping member is removable from said handlebar clamping portion.

22. A bicycle stem according to Claim 20 wherein said handlebar clamping member and said handlebar clamping portion both have generally rectangular shapes overlying one another.

23. A bicycle stem according to Claim 22 wherein said at least one fastener comprises respective fasteners securing corners of said handlebar clamping member and said handlebar clamping portion together.

24. A bicycle stem according to Claim 20 further comprising a steering tube clamping portion connected to an

In re Patent Application of:
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Serial No. 09/658,509
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end of said body portion opposite said handlebar clamping portion.

25. A bicycle stem according to Claim 24 wherein said body portion, handlebar clamping portion and steering tube clamping portion are integrally formed as a monolithic unit.

26. A bicycle stem according to Claim 24 wherein said steering tube clamping portion has a tubular shape defining a steering tube receiving passageway therethrough, and wherein said steering tube clamping portion also has a clamp receiving passageway therein transverse to the steering tube receiving passageway and in communication therewith.

27. A bicycle stem according to Claim 26 further comprising a steering tube clamp in the clamp receiving passageway and comprising a pair of cooperating clamp members aligned in side-by-side relation and comprising respective portions defining a recess therein for the steering tube.

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the present application, and for the courtesy extended during the in-person interview of September 19, 2002. By this amendment, independent Claims 1, 11 and 20 have been amended to more clearly define the present invention. Dependent Claims 2, 4, 12 and 14 have been amended for consistency. Claims 28-37, directed to the non-elected